

27 April 1987

TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI

SOUTH AFRICA

The National Party most likely will retain a comfortable--although diminished--parliamentary majority in the whites-only election on 6 May. The election campaign, however, has been the most contentious in recent years, indicating considerable ferment and confusion in the white electorate. []

6 May elections

The Nationalists, who now hold 127 of 178 seats in the white chamber, probably will drop no more than 10 seats.

25X1

*127 of 178
Nats lose
10*

- President Botha would consider a strong Nationalist showing as a mandate for his limited reform strategy and tough security policies.
- The leftwing parties (Progressive Federal Party and New Republic Party) have formed an electoral alliance and should gain some seats now held by Nationalists. One or two ex-Nationalists running as pro-reform independents probably will capture National Party seats, too.
- The failure of the rightwing parties (Conservative Party and Herstigte Nasionale Party) to reach an electoral pact has hurt their chances to add to their present combined total of 19 parliamentary seats. []

*left may gain**right
25X1?*

The performance of the opposition parties will provide a gauge by which to measure white attitudes toward reform.

- Unexpectedly strong showings by the leftwing parties and independents would force the NP to reassess its preferred pace of reform. Perhaps as many as 30 Nationalists support faster reform and some might eventually defect after the election and join forces with the leftwing parties.
- Impressive gains by rightwing parties would probably lead President Botha to retreat even further from racial reform. []

indep ?

25X1

25X1

25X1

Unrest Upsurge

A major showdown between Pretoria and the increasingly restive and powerful black labor movement is looming as a result of the recent transport strike.

- At least six strikers were killed Wednesday during clashes with police; some 400 black labor union members were detained.
- More than 16,000 striking black railway workers subsequently have been fired.

Government officials have made several ominous statements this month that probably presage new restrictions on the increasingly politicized black labor movement.

- A Cabinet Minister warned that "outrageous and irresponsible" demands are threatening the future of trade unionism.
- The government pledged that it will act after the election against those using foreign funds to "undermine" South Africa (black labor unions are heavily dependent on foreign funds).

The political disturbances in Soweto last week reflect the limitations of the 10-month-old state-of-emergency measures, the volatility of the townships, and the continuing grassroots organizational activity of the black opposition.

- Local community groups in Soweto staged a three-day work boycott to protest recent tenant evictions and to show solidarity with the railworkers.
- Support for the effort was mobilized quickly and impressively. Despite a heavy security presence, youths effectively monitored and enforced the boycott.

ANC-Related Developments

The South African raid into Livingstone, Zambia on Saturday followed numerous public threats by Pretoria and several highly publicized terrorist attacks in South Africa.

- The raid was designed in part to enhance the National Party's electoral prospects, as most whites support crossborder attacks against ANC targets, according to polls.

25X1

25X1

The ANC may try to conduct several spectacular attacks near election day to retaliate for the incident in Zambia and to taint the National Party's anticipated success at the polls.

- Pretoria's public charges that more than 100 guerrillas will try to infiltrate South Africa this month to disrupt the elections appear overstated.**
- The ANC lacks the capability to carry out a broad military campaign that would keep significant numbers of whites away from the polls.**

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